

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF GENUS *CROCIDURA* (MAMMALIA: INSECTIVORA) IN PENINSULAR INDIA

I read with interest a note by Dr. Rao and Aswathanarayana (*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 75(2): 473, 1978) in which they have recorded the occurrence of the genus *Crocidura* in peninsular India (Mysore). I would like to point out that this is not the first record of the genus from the area as it has already been

recorded by me on the basis of a skull found in the pellets of an owl in Jabalpur District of Madhya Pradesh (*Cheetal*, 51(1): 46-47, 1972). I appreciate authentic identification of the species and further distributional information.

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May 14, 1981.

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### 2. NOTES ON THE INDIAN PIGMY PIPISTRELLE (*PIPISTRELLUS MIMUS* WROUGHTON) IN THE THAR DESERT

The Indian Pigmy Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus mimus*) is the most common and widely distributed bat in the Indian desert, in wilderness areas as well as villages and towns. It lives singly or in a small group in buildings, crevices of rocks and hollows of trees. The pipistrelle lives in crevices of walls and is common in the Rajasthan desert (Prakash 1960) it may also live under the bark of Banyan tree. The breeding season is March to May (Brosset 1962). I observed this bat from April 1977 to September 1979.

It roosted in hollows of *Prosopis cineraria*, *Salvadora* spp. and *Tecomella undulata* trees as well as fissures and crevices of rocks. In villages and towns it roosts in crevices and in walls, holes around windows, or similar cracks in constructions were found to be the most favoured roost sites for this bat in urban

areas. Single to groups upto five bats were observed roosting in suitable roost spaces. They left the roost site very early at dusk, about 10 minutes after sunset where as other bats leave after about 30 minutes. Flies in the vicinity of the roost for a few minutes before proceeding to the usual hunting ground which may be 750 metres or even 5 kms away from the roost site.

The returning timing was found to be 25 to 15 minutes before sunrise and it makes several rounds for a few minutes near its roost crevice before entering it for the day.

The bat is widely distributed in the Indian desert except in treeless areas. It is common in villages and towns because food (insects) availability and roosting facilities. Similarly populations were higher in *Salvadora*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *P. cineraria* dominant jungles.